The Southern PATRIOT

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NC Med School Barrier Challenged

James E. Thomas, third-year student at Meharry Medical school from Wilmington, N. C., filed suit last month demanding admission to the University of North Carolina medical school.

The Old North State Medical Society points out that there are 325 students and a 579-bed hospital at Duke University Medical School at Durham, and 210 students and a 315-bed hospital at the Bowman Gray Medical School at Winston Salem. The new medical college at the University of North Carolina will make available additional facilities for 300 students and a 400-bed hospital.

There is no place in North Carolina where a Negro can obtain medical training.

Commenting on the building of a new medical school at the state university, the **Carolina Times** says in an understatement:

"For the State to deliberately establish a medical school without providing training for the race that needs it most appears to us to be unfair and un-Christian."

And the **Greensboro Daily News**, in an editorial entitled, "Inadequate Provision" states:

"North Carolina is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity, and we do not see how anyone in his saner moments can contend that this continuing situation represents its effectuation. The answer is one that this state cannot much longer evade even if it wishes to."

* * *

"The only purpose of a hospital is to make sick people well and to stimulate them to take their proper place in their community."

This admirable definition of a hospital came from Dr. Paul B. Magnuson, chief medical director of the Veterans Administration, after a visit to the Tuskegee VA Hospital. He said further, "the Tuskegee Hospital is performing this function in an ideal manner".

Some Southern hospitals seem to have for their motto, "to make sick (white) people well".

HOW MANY HAVE BEEN LEFT TO DIE?

How many Negroes have died because Jim Crow hospitals refused to accept them? How many bodies will never be sound again because the lily-white surgeon's hand ministered to them only reluctantly?

All our life we have heard tales of horror. Stories of ambulances that refused to come. Of hospitals whose doors were locked to bleeding accident victims. Of Negro emergency patients whose accommodations were the bare tile floor.

Partially because we did not want to believe these things could happen, partially because the news accounts were often followed by loud denials from the medical authorities involved, we were led to hope that such brutal incidents were either exaggerated or exceedingly rare.

Then, several months ago, we learned of what happened to Matthew Avery in North Carolina.

This 24-year-old college student, as was reported in January's **Patriot**, was critically injured in an auto accident. His skull, jaw, legs and arms had sustained fractures and yet two hospitals denied him admission—one of them Duke University Hospital. He was shunted off to a Negro institution where, at the end of his long, tragic ambulance journey, he died within an hour's time.

This story made us furious at first, then thoughtful.

There must be many, many cases like Avery's in the land. It is only logical. When hospitals do not make decent provision for Negro patients of any sort, maternity, tubercular or even minor surgery, what else can one expect? When the complex machinery of a big

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CHILDREN IN AMERICA Schedule

The photographic exhibit CHILDREN IN AMERICA by Marion Pálfi, being sponsored by the SCEF on a Southwide tour (see Mar. SP) was on display at the Louisville Public Library in February and at the Howard Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University in March, sponsored by the department of sociology.

The exhibit will be shown from March 26th to April 7th at the Greensboro (N. C.) Public Library; from April 9th to 14th at the Montgomery (Ala.) Public Library; and from April 16th to May 5th at the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Public Library.

"School Patrolman"—from the exhibit CHILDREN IN AMERICA.

HOW MANY---?

(Continued from page 1)

medical center is geared to exclude the Negro in routine matters, how could any humane attention be given in time of emergency?

No, the deaths of the Matthew Averys, however shocking, should not be surprising to any person of good will. They represent the blind, inhuman extreme of "normal" segregation practices that are, beneath the surface, as blind and inhuman.

So we decided to find, to document and to present as many cases as we could, not for the purpose of horrifying people, but in the hope that the raw facts may contribute to a revision of current medical practices.

We sent letters to the Southern press, requesting their readers to write us of any incidents they knew. The response has been good, but more will be welcomed.

We learned about the death in February of this year of an Akron, Ohio, boy refused admission by the Akron City Hospital. When this lad, Robert Hudson, an 18-year-old star basketball player, became ill his physician tried to place him in one of Akron's 3 hospitals but the best he could do was to be placed on the "waiting list" where he remained for 27 hours.

When Hudson lapsed into a coma about midnight, his mother called an ambulance, took him to City Hospital, and tried without success to get a room. He died in the emergency room about 5 a.m.

The hospital could not provide a bed because they claimed they were all filled up. What was meant was that all the Negro beds were filled. While there are no segregated wards, it seems that they will not "mix" their 2-bed and 4-bed semi-private rooms; they are either all-white or all-Negro. While Hudson lay dying in the emergency ward, there was one empty bed but it was in a room occupied by a white man.

Then there came the account of the treatment given three men injured in an auto accident last August in Hardinsburg, Kentucky. They were taken to Breckinridge County Hospital. Because the hospital had "no facilities for colored people" they were left lying on the bare floor for over three hours. Their wounds were untended. The only medication given them was morphine.

Leroy Foley of Louisville, one of the victims, died on the floor. The others, Jesse Wallace of Louisville and John H. Smith of Lexington were removed to Louisville General Hospital, where Wallace recovered. Smith, however, is still a patient, having suffered a broken back which resulted in partial paralysis.

As a result of this occurrence, the Interracial Hospital Movement was formed and a petition containing over 10,000 names was submitted to the governor demanding that steps be taken immediately to provide hospital facilities for all Kentucky citizens, regardless of race.

We have received more stories which we will relate in subsequent issues. We plan later to collect all the information made available to us and publish it in brochure form.

We hope by this means to overcome the incredulity of even the gentleman from Mississippi who wrote us that all such incidents were hoaxes and the work of "Northern agitators."

And if we shatter his peace of mind it is only to offer him the way to spiritual peace.

"The One Memorial . . ."

MR. LOUIS S. WEISS

Last November Louis S. Weiss, noted New York lawyer, died suddenly.

At the memorial services in the Ethical Culture Society Auditorium a tribute to Mr. Weiss was read by his friend and associate, Lloyd K. Garrison.

That tribute, one of the most moving and beautiful we have ever heard, has been privately printed and we want to share with our readers, many of whom knew and loved Louis Weiss, the closing lines.

"And now this humorous, wise, courageous, able and overflowing warm and generous man has gone, and we shall never know another like him.

"To his beloved family it seems impossible to say anything that can be of comfort; yet I shall venture a closing word. Of them it may be said, in the language of Isaiah, that though they 'dwell in the land of death, upon them hath the light shined'—the light of Louis' spirit, which burned so resplendently that death can never quench its reflection upon them, or upon us, his friends. A part of that light shines on in each of us as an imperishable possession.

"Let us pledge to one another that we will henceforth act as those who should act who have come into such a possession; that following Louis' example we will stand up for the underprivileged, fight against discrimination in all its ugly forms, and do what we can to help ensure to all the children of earth an equal opportunity to develop their talents and to live their lives as mature men and women at peace with one another.

"If we will do this, not merely by our words but by our deeds, we will build for Louis Weiss the one memorial that he could have wished for.

"Now I suggest that for a minute before we part we remain in silent thought and love of him."

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La. Code Favors White Offenders

In the letter to the governor of Virginia asking clemency for the "Martinsville Seven" which was published in December **Patriot**, we asserted that the death penalty for rape is a race penalty —an oppressive measure used almost exclusively against the Negro in the South. To back this, U.S. Census Bureau records for the period 1938-48 were cited, showing that 187 Negroes had been executed for the crime, but only 15 whites.

In this regard, an article written by John E. Rousseau appearing in the Pittsburgh Courier of March 10 shows how in one state, Louisiana, the white offender is legally let off easy.

Article 42 of the Louisiana Criminal Code is the section dealing with aggravated rape. The death penalty is mandatory.

In February, in New Orleans, a Negro man was arrested for the rape of a 13-year-old white baby sitter and was charged under Article 42. An all-white jury found him guilty and he is under sentence to die.

In July, 1949, in the same city, a white truck driver was accused of raping a 13-year-old Negro girl. He was found guilty. But was he committed to the electric chair?

No, because the district attorney did not charge him under Article 42. Instead, he brought action under Article 80: "Carnal Knowledge of a Minor." The truck driver was, as a result, sentenced to one year in prison.

"No records exist to show that a white man has even been sentenced to death for the rape of a Negro female," Rousseau adds in conclusion.

It might be added that 10 Negroes are presently awaiting trial for rape in New Orleans. Not more than one of these cases involves a white woman. One might deduce from this that even in instances where no racial prejudice directly enters prosecutors and grand juries are prone to exercise the harshest possible interpretation of the law upon Negro prisoners.

GEORGIA STUDENTS SPURN MOSLEY-ARMSTRONG MONEY

The student association of Piedmont College, Methodist mountain school at Demorest, Ga., want none of Texas millionaire, George W. Armstrong's money.

With 167 of some 207 students attending, the student group demanded the trustees return the $500-a-month grant and fire President James W. Walter.

Gen. George Van Horn Moseley was the sponsor of the grant from the Texas Education Assoc. financed by Armstrong.

Armstrong will be remembered as the donor of $50,000,000 to Jefferson Military College at Natchez, Miss., provided it admit only white, Christian gentiles. The school rejected the offer.

'MODEST' BUDGET SHOULD MAKE US BLUSH

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has prepared a budget for what it dubiously calls a "modest but adequate" standard of living for a family consisting of a husband who is a working man, a housewife not gainfully employed, and a son and daughter both under 15 years of age and attending school.

Such a budget was priced in October 1950 in 33 cities, ranging from a low at New Orleans of $3,453 to a high in Milwaukee, Wis. of $3,933.

The old myth that it costs less to live in the South than in the North was exploded again. Four of the 8 cities where it proved most expensive to live were in the South—Washington, Richmond, Houston and Atlanta (the others: Milwaukee, San Francisco, Seattle and Boston). Five of the 8 cities where it costs least are in the North—Kansas City, Scranton, Indianapolis, Portland and Cleveland (the others: New Orleans, Mobile and Savannah).

In October 1949 the BLS budget cost ranged from a low of $3,295 in New Orleans to a high of $3,663 at Richmond.

How many American families were able to afford even this "modest" budget?

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census figures, the median (meaning that as many persons received more than this sum as received less than this sum) income for the average American family and unrelated individuals (family of one person) during 1949 was $2,739. For non-whites it was $1,364, and for whites $2,905.

Non-white individuals and families earned only about half as much per unit as white families and individuals.

The annual deficit of the average non-white family unit in 1949 was at least $1,931, and for the white family at least $390.

For the Nation, 20.3 per cent of the non-white families and unrelated individuals made less than $500 per year, and an added 19 per cent earned less than $1,000. Only 3.3 per cent earned more than $5,000 per year.

Among the white families, 30.6 per cent earned between $2,000 and $3,500. More than 17 per cent earned more than $5,000.

The "modest but adequate" BLS budget provides less than one-half pack of cigarettes per day to be divided between husband and wife.

The housewife is allowed .6 of a permanent wave and 4.2 haircuts each year; the husband can get 14.6 haircuts a year and can buy only 1.7 shaves; the rest of the time he must shave himself with a fresh blade about every 9½ days—providing his shaving brush lasts out the required 10 years.

The wife can get a wool dress about every 5 years, and cotton dresses at the rate of 11 every 10 years. Hubby must do with one heavy wool suit every 27 months, and a light wool suit every 3 years.

The BLS budget is lower than the Heller budget prepared by the Univ. of California which also must be regarded as "modest". The Heller budget would have cost at San Francisco in Sept. 1949, for the same size family, $4,040.54 a year for an industrial worker, and $5,134.89 for a white collar worker.

In the face of the deficits mentioned above it is not surprising that researchers at Louisiana State University have found that 40 per cent of the children in Louisiana's elementary public schools are receiving an inadequate diet.

Workers faced with these deficits cannot provide their children with the fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, and other food required for strong bodies; they cannot afford the medical care required for a healthy, normal family, to say nothing of the books, recreation and travel which are usually accepted as the norm of American society.